KUMETA

NATSUO

I was nervous as this was my first time
I've drawn a story for Arcana.
I'd be happy if you enjoyed it!

The Arcana Anthology series is published by Ichijinsha.
Please support the mangaka by buying the manga!

The Zero Alliance

Scanner: Yukihito
Translator: Akari & Yukihito (Author's Comments)
Proofreaders: Chally298, Ninjamuffin, & Yukihito
Cleaner & Redrawing Artist: Panda Ryan
Typesetter & Image Editor: Sapphire Pyro
Quality Checkers: Sapphire Pyro & Yukihito

It is not known if the witch had her eye on the princess because her personality had always been twisted
This is the story of a witch who killed the beautiful princess by poisoning her because of her jealousy toward the princess
had turned evil because her envy towards the princess drove her mad
SFX: PLONK
...Ah.

Are you okay?
PLONK
roll
Aah.
Thank you.
THE FOREST'S POISON
KUMETA NATSUO

SFX: DONG DONG
Don't get it confused with the deadly poisonous Hieracium, which resembles Arum nigrum
That is all!
Well then, please bring three leaves of Arum nigrum for next week's herbology class

STR CHATTERING
Alma!
The Arum nigrum... you pick it from a forest in the Western district, right?
Let's go together on the coming break. It's dangerous for a girl to go there alone.
Sure.

Did you know?
A long time ago, the Hieracium that the teacher mentioned
was actually used by witches as a base ingredient for their poison making.

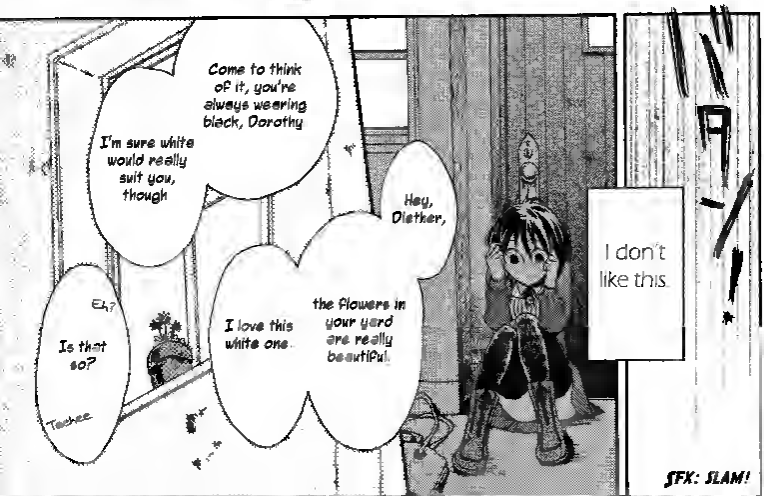
You know... in the fairy tales... there's a story about a witch who fell in love with the prince and killed the princess
That was based on a true story which was far more morbid
In the past, witches were able to emit light without using lamps or candles. They were naturally gifted and had vast knowledge,
they could even differentiate medicinal herbs by smell.
I don't understand why they would kill someone just for the sake of love.
うーん

..Diether,
have you ever been in love?
WHAT'S WITH THAT QUESTION ALL OF A SUDDEN?
Well,
For example...
Did you think "She's cute." when you saw the girl with the apples this morning?
Ah!
You're right. She was cute, wasn't she?
Oh man
Compared to her I'm just...
I have single eyelids, short eyelashes and I'm plain
I'm far from being cute...
My hair's black and unkempt, too.
Hmm?
NEW PRODUCT
SHAMPOO THAT MAKES YOUR HAIR SILKY, GLOSSY AND SHINY.

Whatever, no matter what I do ... I'm still
.....
Figures
That stuff suits girls like that, huh?
Ah.
So she's buying it
The girl with the apples from this morning.
My, Diether, are you going back now?
Don't you always study in the library every Wednesday?
Well,
remember the girl with the apples the other time?

I met her again this morning by coincidence.
I promised to meet her for tea in the afternoon.
That's right. Alma, won't you join us?
Ah,
I
I'll pass,
...since I'm going to the library...
Is that so?
Well then, I'll see you tomorrow.
I hate this
I really hate this
Eh, you're looking for Diether?
He said he had something to do, so he's not coming today
I can't believe he'd skip club activities on a Sunday.
Ah, welcome back, Alma.

Oh my.
a child-hood friend..
She's Alma,
my neigh-bour and childhood friend
Hello, Alma! I'm Dorothy
I don't like this
Hello...


Come to think of it, you're always wearing black, Dorothy
I'm sure white would really suit you, though
Hey, Diether,
I don't like this.
Eh?
Is that so?
Tsuhee
I love this white one.
the flowers in your yard are really beautiful.
SFX: SLAM!

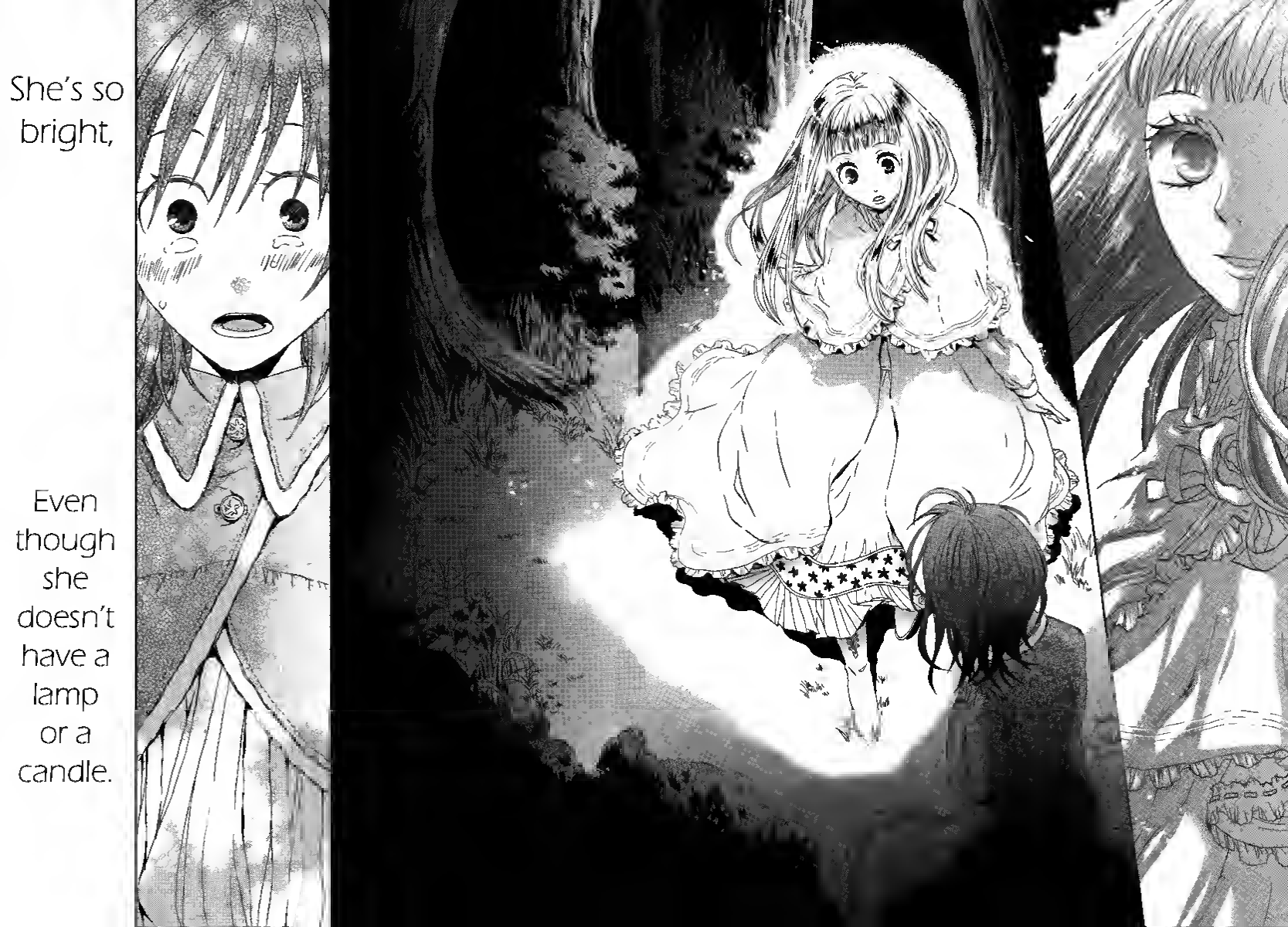
Ah, hey, Diether, about the coming break...
Eh? Oh yeah,
...we talked about going on a picnic, didn't we?
Let's go together on the coming break.
We'll pick Arum nigrum from the Forest.
I hate this!!!
SFX: RUSTLING

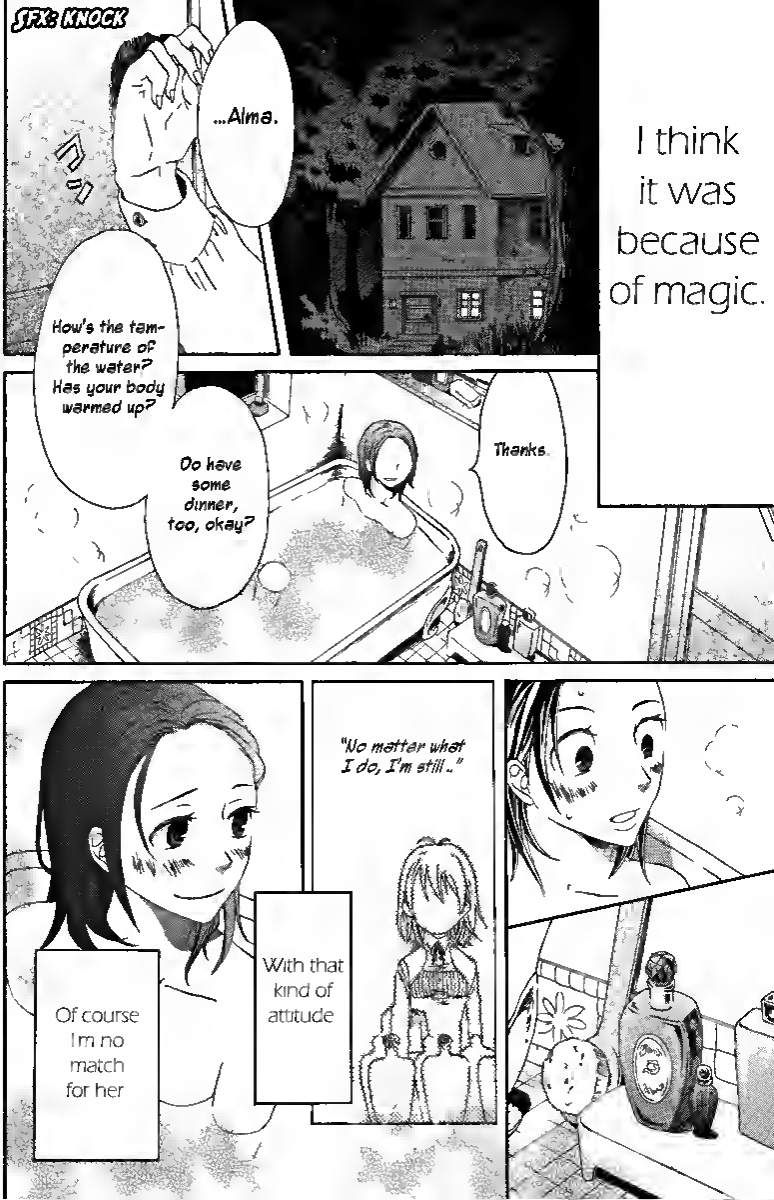
I'll find it right away
It's not like I couldn't come here by myself, anyway
Ah.
Or could it be Hieracium...?
Let's see...
I guess this is it. Arum nigrum.

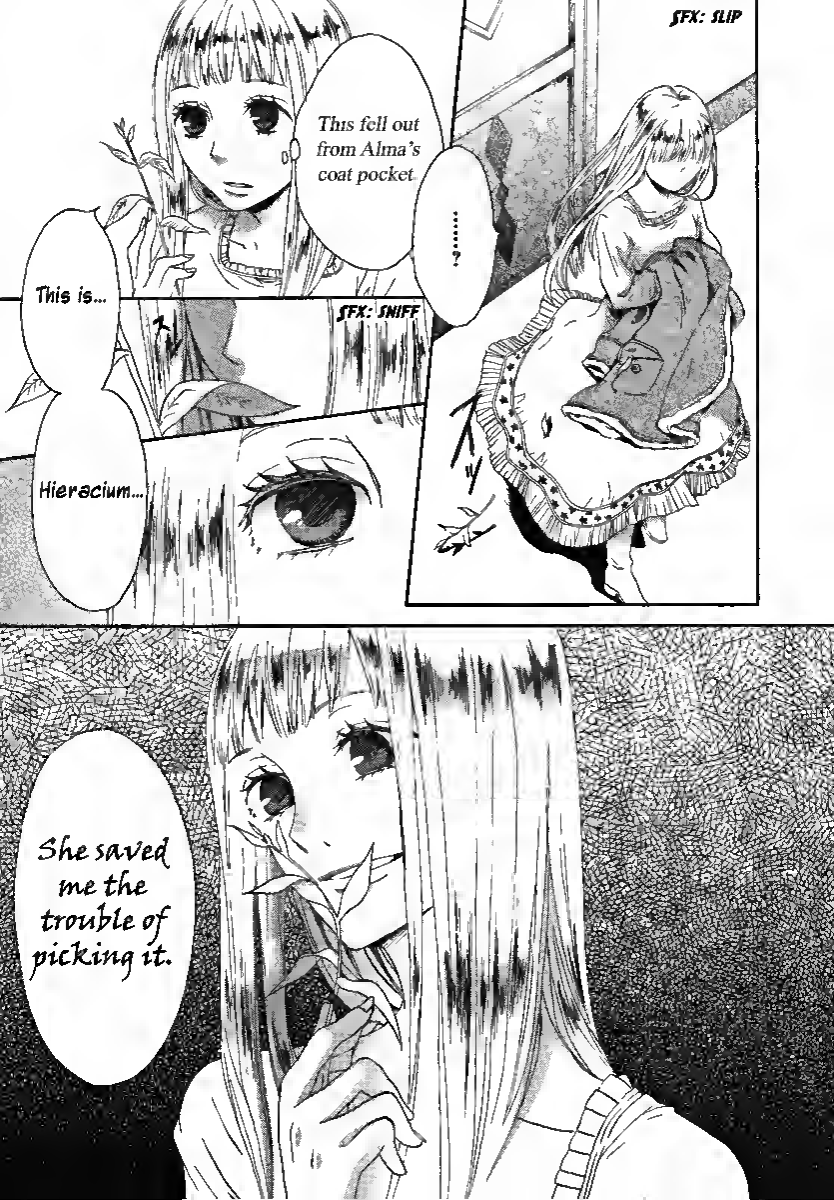
The witch fell in love with the prince
and became jealous of the beautiful princess
The deadly poisonous Hieracium
was used by witches as the basic ingredient of their poisons a long time ago..
So she poisoned her...
SFX: RUSTLE

SFX: RUSTLE
Oh no,
It's already this dark...
Huh?
No way
Which way did I come from?
SFX: RUSTLING

Ba-thump
Ba-thump
Ba-thump
Ba-thump
Ba-thump
A light!


She's so bright,
Even though she doesn't have a lamp or a candle.


SFX: KNOCK
...Alma.
How's the temperature of the water? Has your body warmed up?
Do have some dinner, too, okay?
Thanks.
I think it was because of magic.
"No matter what I do, I'm still.."
With that kind of attitude
Of course I'm no match for her


SFX: SLIP
This fell out from Alma's coat pocket.
.....?
This is...
SFX: SNIFF
Hieracium...
She saved me the trouble of picking it.

For the coming vacation...
...Ah, that's right. We talked about going for a picnic, didn't we?
Sorry, I promised Aima beforehand
Is it an important promise?
She's an important girl to me.
That girl's in my way.
END